

## Teacher Resource Bank

GCE Media Studies

MEST4: Examples of Areas of Investigation and  
Linked Productions



## **Examples of Areas of Investigation and Linked Productions**

**“Reality TV is mindless. It is nothing more than cheap entertainment for the masses”.**

**How far is reality TV accountable for the so-called ‘dumbing-down’ in the media?**

**A discussion, using ‘America’s Got Talent’ as exemplar.**

Linked production– tabloid expose of a contestant, including private life and impact of appearing on the programme: front page and 2 page spread

**“Authority figures in ‘Slumdog Millionaire’ are represented as nothing more than crude figures of oppressive violence, wholly conforming with every stereotype held by a Western audience.”**

**An analysis of the representation of authority in ‘Slumdog Millionaire’**

Linked production – tabloid expose or broadsheet analysis of police violence in the UK; front page and inside spread.

**The Popular Press – navigating the difference between ‘in the public interest’ and ‘interesting to the public’ – looking at cases like Moseley’s sex life, recent scandal about phone bugging etc. Exploring institution and audience.**

Linked production: invented story tackled by two different papers but differing in treatment to reflect corporate news values.

**Codes and conventions of newspapers and representations of sport. Wimbledon and the Ashes.**

Linked production: newspaper pages. A focus on British identity and cynicism about success as an angle, perhaps by comparing briefly with American sports coverage.

**Does violence on screen affect the moral values of its audience? How has the horror genre changed over time and has it become more violent? Violence is now far more graphic and visual. Does this have a direct effect on the behaviour of the audience? Text: Childs Play (historical context); “Saw” films. The audience desire to be thrilled and scared is inherent. Should the audience be exposed to violence and does this have a positive or negative effect?**

Linked production: Extracts from film magazine supplement on contemporary horror films.

**‘Have documentaries lost their informative edge, due to the current demands for high ratings?’**

Linked production: Short documentary film (to be based on a contemporary local issue).

**Should Reality TV supply social moral and ethical education?**

Linked production: Sequence from a reality TV programme which does exactly that.

**The action thriller, how audiences are hooked in by the codes and conventions of the genre and the opening sequences with a focus on Children of Men and The Bourne Trilogy (amongst other texts) –**

Linked production: might be an opening sequence that tests other techniques for hooking audiences in (other than special effects and explosions etc).

**To what extent can it be said that popular music is to blame for moral panics in the media?**

Linked production - music videos made for the same song but which tackle it in two very different ways (with reference to the research piece).

**Enduring nature of some genres - “hospital dramas” – why do they continue to be so popular with both audiences and producers? Using “House” as main focus of study.**

Linked production: possible print based promotion for new hospital medical drama on specific channel (institutional as well as generic codes and conventions)/for particular audience. USP needs to be evident in campaign, which could include billboards, magazine/newspaper/TV listing adverts etc).